

# The Rangitoto Observer

Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

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Issue 11 - Aug 2, 2019

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Tyre-flipping world record  
success... p3

Interview: arts powerhouse  
Angela Antony... p8

Local board's 'no confidence'  
in councillors... p17

## Sacred grove closure illegal: opinion

Permanent closure of the Sacred Grove walkway on Takapuna Beach to the public may be illegal.

The closure is one option being considered by Auckland Council.

However, a legal opinion seen by the Rangitoto Observer says the walkway is on a recreation reserve which is owned by the Crown. While the council can close the reserve temporarily for safety reasons,

a permanent closure is not a legal option, according to the opinion.

Iwi have said in discussions with council that they want the walkway closed.

To page 2

## Keep on rockin' in the wee world



Shake it up, baby... Marco Coote (11 months) was among a troupe of toddlers who joined in the fun at a Tiny Boppers class at the Milford Senior Citizens Hall last week. More pics, p4-5.

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From page 1

# Reserve land available to all, says legal opinion

The purpose of a Recreation Reserve “is to provide an area for the enjoyment of the public,” the opinion said. “If the council elects to close the reserve it will be contravening its statutory duties and functions un-

der the Reserves Act to make land available for the enjoyment and use of the public.”

A closure of the grove to the public would mean Sands Apartments owners would lose direct beach access.

The residents are maintaining they can cross the land to gain beach access like any other members of the public.

They say the removal of the walkway

through Sacred Grove doesn’t make sense given access to the land is guaranteed, and that retaining the walkway protects the grove from informal tracks and also tree roots from damage.

The opinion has been sent to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members. It has been forwarded to the council’s legal team for its view.

## Development shortlist for Takapuna

A shortlist of developers for the 40 Anzac St carpark has been identified by Panuku.

Panuku Development Auckland called for expressions of interest for a development partner for Takapuna central earlier in the year.

“We have shortlisted these initial submissions and we will be having further conversations with shortlisted parties about design and development proposals,” a Panuku spokesperson said.

“This stage is likely to take six months.”

## Pivotal week for Forrest Hill Milford soccer club

Forrest Hill Milford Premiers beat Hibiscus Coast 2-0 last weekend to remain top of the mens first division championship – in a pivotal week for the club.

On August 6, a special AGM will be held at its Becroft Park clubrooms to decide whether a merger between it and North Shore

United will take place.

North Shore United is also flying high this season – its premier team is leading the premier league, despite a 4-1 loss to Onehunga Sports last weekend.

A merger of the clubs would see only one premier team. A streamlining of administration and coaching with the aiming to offer more to players are among the perceived benefits.

•Registrations for the meeting take place at 6.30 pm for the 7pm meeting. A simultaneous meeting will take place at the North Shore Club.

### Letters to the Editor

Topics should be local. Noms-de-plume or submissions without a name will not be printed. Email to news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz or post to Rangitoto Observer, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.



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NEXT ISSUE: Aug 16  
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Aug 9

What's On

### Murder on the Nile

25 July - 4 August  
One of Agatha Christie's best and well-plotted murder mysteries.

### Creative Talk:

Shoreside Theatre  
3 August - After 2pm Matinee  
An insightful Q&A with the cast and crew of Shoreside Theatre's latest production.

### Mahua Improv Show

10 - 11 August  
A popular Chinese Improv Comedy Show, entirely in Mandarin.



PH: 489 8360  
PUMPHOUSE.CO.NZ

### Notice of Annual General Meeting of the North Shore Theatre & Arts Trust (THE PUMPHOUSE THEATRE) INC.

The AGM will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 August 2019 At The PumpHouse Theatre, Killarney Park, off Manurewa Ave, Takapuna.

In addition to the Normal Business of the AGM nominations are invited for Board Members. Any Enquiries to Peter Burn Chairperson 021 265 9697

At the conclusion of the AGM the meeting will be addressed by guest speaker Mrs Helen Woodhouse Retired Library Manager of Takapuna Library after more than 30 years in the role.

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# North Shore team breaks world record

Gareth Edwards and Tom Moore flipped a 93kg tyre for 24 hours, setting a new world record and raising more than \$12,000 for men's mental health.

Edwards (40) and Moore (29) trained for 20 weeks to break the current 24-hour tyre-flipping record of 20km, which was set with a lighter 68kg tyre.

The pair flipped from midday Saturday 20 July to midday Sunday 21 July, reaching 24km with a 93kg tyre. The world record wasn't the only target the pair had taken on, they also aimed to raise \$10,000 for mental health charity the John Kirwan Foundation.

"We've both been in some pretty dark places so this is a cause that is extremely close to our hearts," says Edwards, from Forrest Hill.

They have now reached over \$12,000, including more than \$800 that was donated in cash during the flip weekend.

"It was a physical feat. We were very well prepared.

"I went through three whole pizzas, cheesecakes and other bits that people brought along," says Edwards.

"The hardest part of the whole thing was the last hour. I couldn't hold onto my emotions any longer and completely broke down. It was 20 weeks of achievement. To have all our friends, family and supporters there... there were lots and lots of tears. Not a dry eye in the house.

"It's an experience that Tom and I won't forget in a hurry."

To donate to their Givealittle page, visit [givealittle.co.nz/cause/24-hour-tyre-flipping-for-mental-health](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/24-hour-tyre-flipping-for-mental-health).



**Flipping impressive... Gareth Edwards (left) and Tom Moore have raised over \$12,000 for the John Kirwan Foundation**



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## SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

By John Guare

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# Tiny dancers rock the Senior Citizens Hall



About a dozen tots and their parents made a song and dance at the Tiny Boppers class at the Milford Senior Citizens Hall last week. Held on Friday mornings, the class is led by Alison Frith, who takes parents and toddlers through a music and movement programme. Maracas and sparkly scarves were among the highlights of last Friday's class.



**All the moves...**  
**clockwise from above left:**  
**Rosie Buckingham (17 months)** fits in a game of scarf peek-a-boo; **Cove Wiltshire (22 months)** finds the camera more interesting than the dancing; **Henry Duminski (18 months)** shakes it up; **Eden Taylor-Dunn (14 months)** prefers to do her shaking in the arms of dad **Rob Taylor-Dunn**; **Henry** takes to the floor.

## Hearing Aids in the Drawer?

Do you know someone who spent thousands on hearing aids but doesn't wear them? What a huge waste of money and opportunity. Hearing aids are like little computers with amazing levels of technology and options. But they certainly won't help if they aren't in your ears!

Hearing aids should be comfortable and easy to use – but they do take some getting used to. It can often take a few weeks for your brain to acclimatize to hearing the wide world of sound again, and wearers also need to learn how to put them in properly, clean and manage them. This is why hearing aids are often bundled with follow up appointments and after-care services so fit and management can be checked and settings adjusted as needed.

Even after a few years hearing aids can easily be re-programmed if they are too loud or if hearing levels have changed. Most hearing aids carry previous hearing test information in their settings so all it takes is a booking to upload this info and adjust as needed. A hearing check and a quick clean and adjustment can make a huge difference. There is no problem transferring ACC, Veterans or other funding to a new provider – previous records and funding info are available if needed.

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## New public artwork for Milford Reserve in 2020



**Ball of steel... an impression of what the artwork at Milford Reserve will look like in the day (above) and illuminated at night (below)**

A new stainless-steel public artwork, which will be illuminated at night, is to be installed at Milford Reserve around March 2020.

Artist Lang Ea has completed a design of the work, which will be 2.5m in diameter with a 1m centre cut-out. Four lamps will be positioned around the work, and it will emit a purple glow from the early evening, until 10pm.

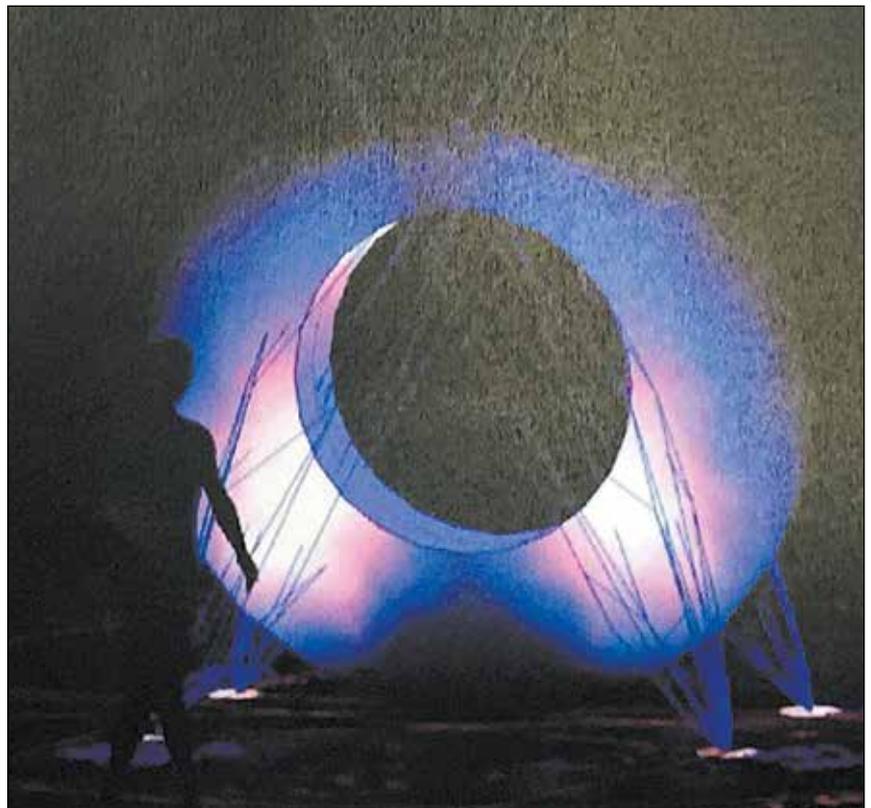
Making the work would take around six months, Auckland Council arts and culture project manager Nichola Waugh told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

Board members universally supported the project and its placement on the reserve.

Waugh confirmed that children would be able to play inside it.

Member Jan O'Connor said she had been disappointed with the placement of art works at Hauraki Corner and Killarney Park and wanted an assurance the new work would be placed in the best spot for public viewing.

Officers would report back to the board on progress over the next few months.



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# Theatre powerhouse Angela's heart's still in the arts

At 76, Angela Antony is still playing a major role in the North Shore theatre scene she and her late husband John did so much to nurture. Jodi Yeats reports



**Show goes on... Fifty years to the day after her marriage, Angela Antony sits on 'John's seat' – a memorial to her husband, outside the PumpHouse Theatre, of which she is the patron**

Arts aficionado Angela Antony laughs with her whole body, wiping tears from her face as she rolls backwards on her seat in the PumpHouse cafe, elegant in a cobalt-blue and cream wool coat.

On the day that would have been her 50th wedding anniversary, Antony is talking about her monthly ladies-who-lunch meeting with her "arty" friends, writers, painters, actors – all sorts.

"We talk about everything," she says,

laughing, repeating with emphasis: "Everything!"

"When you have known someone that long, you can talk about anything.

"We all have the same sense of humour. If you lose your sense of humour, you may as well turn up your toes."

The PumpHouse Theatre has been a 'second home' for all of her family for the past 50 years.

"Now I'm the patron – turning up at the

right events and wiggling my nose."

Four years after her husband John's death, Antony says her group of women friends has never been so important, especially those who are also widows.

A shared love of musical theatre brought Angela Mirams and her then future husband, John Antony, together in a 1961 Wellington Operatic production of *The King and I*. John was playing the part of a priest and she, just out of school, played a temple dancer.

The pair married six years later in Auckland, where both continued their involvement – singing, dancing and other roles – in musical theatre.

John directed 30 shows at the PumpHouse, including its first musical in 1977, and was on the board from 2007 to 2015.

Early in their marriage, they joined the North Shore Operatic Society, with John holding the role of president three times and progressing to be president of Musical Theatre New Zealand.

When they had children, they planned to take turns acting, singing and directing, but it turned out that, with two young children, Angela took on backstage work and, later, arts administration.

Among many public roles, Antony regards her finest achievement as "building The Bruce", aka the Bruce Mason Centre.

Antony was an instigator of the project, seeing a need for a large theatre venue to complement the PumpHouse.

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She organised a meeting in 1984 that led to the formation of the trust that drove the theatre project.

"We thought it would take five years and it took 12 years. We had the most wonderful mix of trustees.

"We went through five different councils and they had five mayoral forums. We needed agreement from each council."

At one point, after 1989 council amalgamation, the newly formed North Shore City Council wanted to revoke the land lease on the site. Further feasibility tests confirmed the site, the council changed and the show was back on the road.

Antony attributes the trust's eventual success to her sheer "pig-headedness" and the trust's determination not to see their efforts wasted.

The centre's eventual opening in 1996 was a joyful occasion.

Antony stayed involved as a board member until 2015. However, through the process, the council separated running of the commercial space in the building and the car park from the theatre. That hampered the theatre's ability to subsidise community theatre productions, so that aspect of Antony's vision hasn't been realised to the extent she hoped.

Now that management of the centre has moved to the Auckland Council's venues

arm, Regional Facilities Auckland, Antony hopes the community involvement will grow.

Antony says her son and daughter saw her spending "half my life" on the Bruce Mason Centre. Both have taken up careers in the arts. Her daughter works in television and her son is an international photographer, based in London.

It is hardly surprising. Antony's CV covers roles in the arts extending far beyond the Bruce Mason Centre, and continuing today.

From 1988-1991, she was promotions coordinator for Takapuna City Council and North Shore City Council, and she was on the Takapuna Community Board from 1992 to 1995.

Antony coordinated the North Shore Winter Arts Festival from 1993 to 2000.

She founded and developed the Shore Arts Forum, a network of all North Shore arts groups and organisations.

As chair of Arts Advocates Auckland from 1998 to 2005, an umbrella group for all major arts groups, Antony made a parliamentary submission that gained \$10m for regional arts.

She received a Queen's Service Medal for Community Service in 1997, recognising more than 30 years' service to the arts, including establishing the Bruce Mason Centre.

John also received a QSM for services to musical theatre.

In 2012, Louise Wallace and John Antony set up Tadpole Theatre Productions.

"As a young theatre company, everyone just did everything," recalls Antony.

That description fits equally well for her current role as Tadpole Theatre's administrator, which covers everything from sewing and obtaining costumes, to applying for the rights to plays, to programming, promotion and casting. She's also on the board.

At 76, Antony seldom has time to read a book, although she enjoys poetry. Her friends invite her to openings of exhibitions and shows.

"You don't lose contact with all your neat arty friends."

Work for Tadpole is virtually full-time, and then there's her role as Pumphouse patron.

"I am trying to step back in life, but they say when you are retired, you are busier than ever, because people think you have time."

The sewing machine in her Milford home is kept active making costumes for Tadpole and sewing "wardrobes" for herself and her daughter. "Sewing has always been a hobby and 'my therapy,'" she says.

While she misses her co-star in life, the show most certainly is going on.



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# Everyone can have fun at new town square

Takapuna's transformation has taken another big step, following a recent decision by Auckland Council to approve the layout of a large public town square.

The new 3200sqm town square will provide our town centre with a much-needed heart and place for people to congregate. It will be a place focused around people – where people share stories, quench a thirst, share food, celebrate milestones, and where everyone can have fun!

With council now strongly coming in behind its urban regeneration agency, Panuku Development Auckland, we finally have

formal agreement on the new town square's configuration.

We're also delighted it is larger than originally anticipated – growing to 3200sqm, plus laneways. That's great for our growing centre.

It will be a massive improvement for Takapuna, with Panuku now tasked with delivering a \$7 million public space for the whole community to enjoy. This is in addition to the \$25 million being spent on the new multi-level Gasometer car park for 420 cars, \$6 million on the Huron and Northcroft street upgrades, \$3 million on the bus interchange,

and \$12 million on Hurstmere Rd.

The precinct's remaining 6000sqm will be made available for commercial, residential and retail development from next year.

The town square's agreed configuration significantly improves connections. It will be a much more people-orientated space, including new cafes and restaurants spilling out with alfresco diners, great space for events and markets as well as a dedicated area for our Anzac memorial and annual ceremony.

As well as the new 420-space car park being built 200m away, the new precinct itself will come with some car parks as the Unitary Plan requires one car park space for every 30sqm of retail development. If say, 5000sqm of retail/hospitality space is created, that will mean at least 166 car parks will need to be integrated into the development.

Now that the layout of the public area has been confirmed, Panuku moves onto designing the elements for the town square with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, to best suit the community. It will also be receiving public feedback on the design.

While it's a big milestone that the overall layout of Takapuna's town square has now been confirmed, I encourage locals to continue to be engaged and to have their say on the finer elements of its design over the coming months.

We need the people in our community to now come together, work collaboratively and help make Takapuna into the best centre it can be – now and for the future.

**Terence Harpur**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Takapuna Beach Business Association**

## Grey Power North Shore

### Mayoral Candidates Meeting

Friday August 16th at 1.00pm  
 Netball North Harbour Centre  
 44 Northcote Rd, Northcote

#### Are Seniors Still Relevant In The Super City?

Phil Goff, JT Tamihere, John Palino, & Craig Lord on the Issues we face.

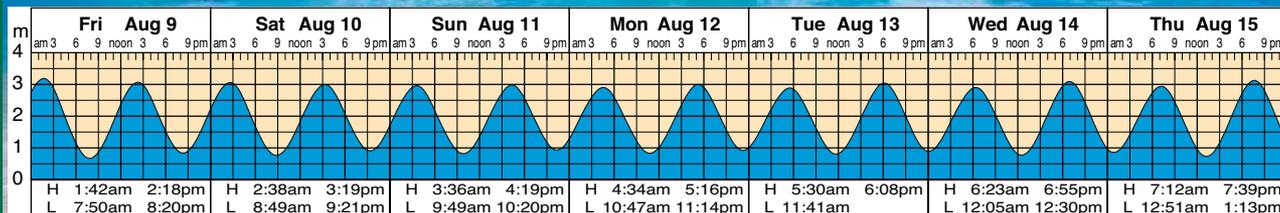
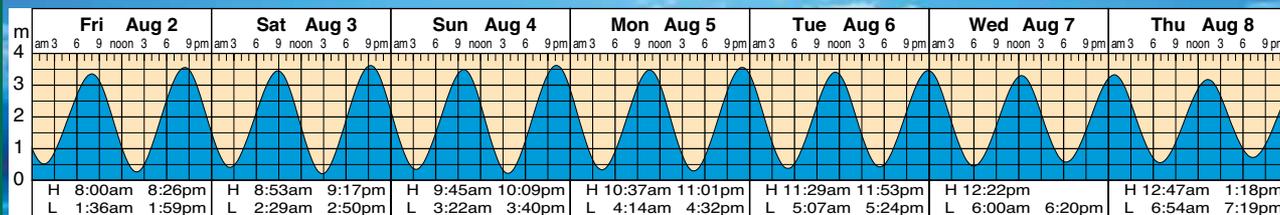
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# Milford / Takapuna Tides



## Bureaucrats 'should have been told' of Milford spruce-up

Auckland Council's style police seem miffed that a new bright-burgundy colour scheme has been given to public seats in Milford town centre without their go-ahead.

The Milford Business Association is spending \$6600 painting 19 wooden seats and installing 26 planters, with help from Milford Rotary, council contractor Recreational Services and local businesses.

Feedback has been positive, but the association was warned about painting public seats without telling the Auckland Council.

"It's unlikely there would be any issue with this type of work, but it's important that Community Facilities as asset owners are informed before making any alterations to their property," senior advisor to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Tristan Coulson told the Observer.

"It's simply having the conversation before going and doing something. I have asked the business association to be mindful of this if they have any further plans to brighten or beautify council assets," Coulson says.

However, business association manager Murray Hill disputes whether the council owns the seats, which were donated by community organisations, some decades ago.

The association would not have known who to tell in the council, but did advise the local board. Hill feared council involvement could lead to lengthy delays.

"What do you want, dreary old seats in a town



**Brush-up... Milford Business Association's Murray Hill and Recreational Services' Lionel Anderson at work on a bench**

centre, or do you want someone getting off their chuff and doing something?"

Coulson said the final result is commendable. "I hope the focus is on how little things like a coat of paint and flower boxes can go a long way – the town centre looks really nice and it's a credit to Murray," he said.

A business association board member chose

the colour.

The project has been paid for with Business Improvement District money, but local businesses have helped out.

Kings Plant Barn Garden Centre has supplied plants and a local builder, Bayside Designer Homes, has replaced rotten slats on the benches.

## Keeping safe from scammers

Judging by the number of calls to my Takapuna Electorate Office, financial scams are becoming more of a concerning issue, especially for some of our North Shore seniors. Research NZ says nearly three-quarters of us have been the target of scammers at some time, and anyone of us at any age can make a mistake.

Many scams are easy to spot and most of us ignore lottery prizes we've never entered, sending money overseas to 'unlock' inheritances or giving our banking and PIN number details over the phone to secure a 'once in a lifetime investment'. As my mother used to tell me, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

But some scams do seem like the real deal and they are getting more sophisticated and manipulative all the time, targeting human vulnerabilities around financial worries or confusion about investments. Scammers tend to prey on people who are isolated and perhaps living alone, and often discourage people from discussing their 'great investment opportunity' with friends or family.

Advice on how to protect yourself from scamming and financial abuse is one of the topics we'll be discussing over a cuppa and complimentary morning tea at the Mairangi Bay Bowling Club on 16 August. Heather Woodards, a senior investigator

with Financial Crime Operations at the ASB, will join us to talk about the latest scams and answer any of your questions.

Our ageing population means we need to plan carefully to ensure the best support is available so that seniors can live in their own homes for as long as possible. We'll be joined by Dementia Auckland's Barbara Fox, who will discuss cognitive stimulation therapy to combat dementia, and the importance of early detection.

**I'm also looking forward to hosting a convivial lunch with my friend and neighbouring Rodney MP Hon Mark Mitchell who will talk about his responsibilities for Defence and Justice. Please join us on Tuesday, 13 August from noon at Aubergine in Takapuna. More info: Fay@Freeman.co.nz.**



## Seniors Meeting

**Fri 16 August, 10am - 11.30am**  
**Mairangi Bay Bowling Club, 11-13 Ramsgate Terrace**

Join me over a cuppa and let me know what issues are important to you as a Senior North Shore resident, such as positive ageing, end of life choices and how to avoid scams and financial abuse.

For catering purposes please RSVP to [northshore@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:northshore@parliament.govt.nz) or ring **09 486 0005**

Hon Maggie Barry ONZM, MP for North Shore and National Party Spokesperson for Veterans, Seniors, Disability Issues and Associate Health

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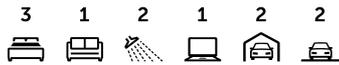
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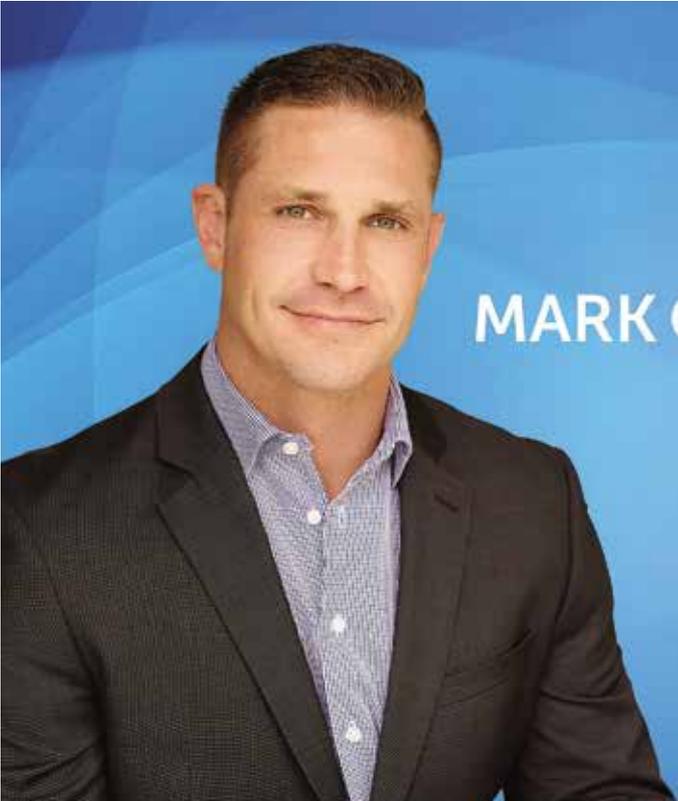
If you're looking for easy coastal living, this modern 3 bedroom home represents excellent value. Perfectly positioned for work and play, the home is a short walk from Hauraki Corner, Takapuna Beach and has handy access to the motorway. Ease of living is paramount here, thanks to the central location and low-maintenance grounds. Bonus features include a double internal access garage for all-weather convenience and an alarm system for extra security. Location, lifestyle and lock-up-and-leave potential - this one ticks every box. Don't delay in viewing!

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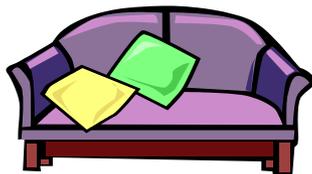
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# DEVONPORT RSA

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## From the President and Members of the Devonport Returned and Services Association (RSA)

To the local communities in Devonport and Takapuna, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your very generous support during the annual fundraising on Poppy Week this year. Generosity and community spirit were well demonstrated again by the amount of donations and wonderful support that we received.

Approximately \$20,000 was kindly donated this year and this will be used for charitable purposes for the welfare of returned and ex-service people and their dependent family members to provide the support that could only be made possible by your generosity.

We look forward to strengthening our relationship with you as we all work together to return the Anzac Day Street March and Civic Service to the Cenotaph in the Devonport Village in 2020.

Barbara Fleissner, Secretary, Devonport RSA

## Public-space budget sought

Clarification on the exact amount of money to be spent on the public space at 40 Anzac St after it is developed is being sought by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The decision to go with Panuku's design for the open space was made by council's environment and community committee last month. Ironically, decision-making over the public space now falls back to the board.

Local board advisor Eric Perry said a budget of \$3 million for the open space had been circulated "some time ago" but needed to be updated now the decision on the civic space had been made.

Member Mike Cohen is disgruntled with the process.

Council made the major decision and now the board was left with working out how much grassed area and seats would be provided, he said at a board meeting.

The board also asked for monthly updates from Panuku on the project and any plans for what happens to the Sunday market.

## Takapuna Bus Station another 'unfunded' local project

A \$3.5m upgrade of Takapuna Bus Station is earmarked in the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), but no money is set aside for it.

The upgrade "sits in the unfunded part of the RLTP, with little likelihood of this situation changing", an Auckland Transport spokesman said.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council "have been made aware of this at every stage of the process around the re-designation of the Anzac St car park site and subsequent Panuku-led development project," the spokesman said.

"Through the consenting process we have ensured that the site redevelopment does not preclude us coming back and upgrading the bus station when the funding becomes available," he said.

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# Trip to Kenya ‘life-changing’



**Champion trip... Fourteen Westlake Boys' cross-country runners run with the world's greats in Kenya**

A group of 14 distance runners from Westlake Boys have recently returned from a three-week-long trip to Kenya where they trained with some of the country's top athletes.

Other items on the itinerary included a high-altitude training centre, visits to local schools and villages and an eight-day safari.

The group of students, along with their coach Theuns Strydom and a parent helper, left for Kenya on June 28 and returned July 21.

The team is: Sam Berry, Max Johnson, Ben Dalton, JJ Weston, James Oates, Toby Saxby, Charlie Glass, Callum de Moor, Matt Gould, Arlo Wharton, Ben Roscoe, Ben Manning, George Luty and Blake Parker.

“We visited St Patrick’s College who have produced 26 of the world champion runners,” says Strydom. “We also went to the homes of some of the top runners to see how they live. It was life-changing for Kiwi boys.”

This is the school’s ninth trip to Africa. “There’s a number of reasons we do this trip. It’s a big carrot to dangle for the boys,” says Strydom. “There’s also an agreement the kids will raise half the cost of the trip themselves, which teaches them some very important life lessons around money.”

The students have been mowing lawns, running sausage sizzles and fundraiser quiz nights for the past two years to earn the funds.

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## Board vs councillors: open hostility and a no-confidence vote

A no-confidence motion in North Shore councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills has been passed by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Allegations of lies, social media slagging, abusive messaging and community abandonment swirled around the council chamber as the board voted 3-2 last week in favour of the no-confidence motion.

The often prickly relationship between the board and the councillors has moved to outright hostility in recent months, and came to a head with a split over public spaces at the soon-to-be-developed carpark at 40 Anzac St, Takapuna.

The board has pushed for a square designed by consultant Richard Reid Architects, while Hills and Darby supported a concept put forward by council's development arm, Panuku.

The Panuku plan won out at a meeting of council's environment and community committee on 10 July.

Board members Jan O'Connor, Mike Cohen and Grant Gillon voted for the no-confidence motion, with chair George Wood and member Mike Sheehy voting against. Member Jen McKenzie was on leave.

O'Connor, who moved the motion, said: "Our two councillors have forgotten the community, the community that voted for them in the first place."

She had entered local body politics in 1986 and had never seen the need to put forward such a motion before.

Mike Sheehy said he was "really disappointed the councillors had not supported the board" over 40 Anzac St, but felt the motion was "wrong in election year".

Board chair George Wood said: "A no-confidence notice of motion is pretty strong – there is some ulterior motive here."

Member Grant Gillon said he was uncomfortable with such motions, but it seems relations had got to such a point he voted 'yes' anyway.

Hills and Darby have attended fewer board meetings in recent months, which is seen by some as indication of an escalating cold war between the board and the councillors.

At the start of the term, councillors and board members had catch-up briefings, but this has stopped.

It appears social media has played a major part in the relationship disintegration. Both Gillon and Hills accused each other of spreading lies in social-media posts.

Several social media posts that "were dishonest, mentioned me", Hills said.

"There have been lots of nasty comments from members throughout this term on social media," he said.

Regarding the 40 Anzac St issue, Hills posted a lengthy update as a lot of people "were confused". Afterwards, people "came back to me saying they understand".

Gillon claimed he had attempted to respond to Hills' comments on social media, but was blocked from doing so. Hills countered he only blocked people who were abusive.

The no-confidence motion was a "very clear political move in election year", Hills said.

Councillor Chris Darby said board members had not contacted him on the 40 Anzac St issue "for years", although he was always available on the phone or by email.

A consultation and survey had shown overwhelming support for the Panuku design, but the board had chosen to push forward with its own plan, he said.

"Who is acting out of sync here? But I will let that go, the decision has been made," Darby said.

Board members were also upset with the way Takapuna and Devonport residents had to wait for eight hours before the 40 Anzac St agenda item was called at the Town Hall.

Darby and Hills said they approached environment and community committee chair Penny Hulse to move the Takapuna item up the agenda, but debate on the controversial move to downsize Chamberlain Golf Course was already in full swing.

## Heart of the Shore ticket launched

Incumbent Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Jan O'Connor is standing on the Heart of the Shore ticket for the upcoming council elections.

Others on the ticket include community activists Iain Rea (Devonport Precincts Protection Society), Trish Deans (Devonport Heritage), and Ruth Jackson (Heart of Takapuna).

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## WHAT'S ON IN TAKAPUNA NORTH

Sarah Thorne Community Coordinator

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Takapuna North Environmental Network group who presented the North Shore Birdsong Project to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at a workshop in July and were commended for their presentation and report. The project is a Pest Free and Restoration Plan for Takapuna North (Hauraki to Sunnynook) and recommends the employment of an Environmental Coordinator to work with community groups and volunteers towards creating a pest free environment and encouraging more bird life back to our area. Thank you to Facilitator Kym Burke who guided the process and to the Biodiversity team from Auckland Council who were closely involved with every step. You can follow the project and its progress on the North Shore Birdsong project.

Facebook/northshorebirdsongproject

### ACTIVE AGEING EXPO

Are you part of an older adults' activities or social group? We are currently taking bookings for our Active Ageing Expo which we are planning in conjunction with Age Concern for Friday 8th November. The event is aimed at older adults who'd like to find out more about clubs, societies and groups in their area. If your group is based on the North Shore and you'd like a free stall, please get in touch. No private businesses sorry. This is a strictly a seniors for seniors event.

### FREE FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS

Every Friday until 27 September. Aimed at primary school aged children. Join us on Fridays, 3:30-5:30pm at the Many Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Road, Takapuna. Children must be supervised by their caregiver.

### FREE WINTER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY

Free Winter Fun Preschool Play is on weekly at venues in Takapuna, Milford and Sunnynook. Bring your little ones along to play with our great range of toys; enjoy a cup of coffee and meet new people. The events are free of charge and don't require you to book (with the exception of play dates at Lady Allum retirement village). For a full timetable and details of how to book for our intergenerational play dates, visit our website ([www.takapunatrust.org.nz](http://www.takapunatrust.org.nz)) or visit Facebook/summerfunplay.

More information about all of these events and programmes can be found at our website, [www.takapunatrust.org.nz](http://www.takapunatrust.org.nz).

### Takapuna North Community eNEWS

To receive the Takapuna North eNEWS, a monthly email listing of community events, and other community notices, please email us at [office@takapunatrust.org.nz](mailto:office@takapunatrust.org.nz)

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## New Kristin head brings experience of earthquakes aftermath

The new executive principal of Kristin, Mark Wilson, says that his challenging role at a Christchurch school during the Canterbury earthquakes has prepared him well for his new role.

Last month Wilson moved with his wife from Christchurch to Orewa, after being principal at Cashmere High School since 2009.

"I had been there just over a year when it started to rattle and roll," he says.

"It was my first principalship and quite a demanding time. Despite it all, the school has actually come out of it very well. The attendance and grades had improved substantially by the time I left."

Wilson is father to two children, a son (19), who is in the army, and a daughter (22), who is studying law and commerce at Canterbury University.

He grew up in the Waikato, completed his training as a teacher in Hamilton, and has taught at six schools since.

Last year, Wilson decided it was time for his next adventure and knew that he wanted to work for an independent school.

He says that his time spent teaching at independent schools St Pauls (Hamilton, 1995-1997) and St Peters (Cambridge 1998-2003) gave him a taste of what it was like to work for a school that was free of government bureaucracy.

"The independence of Kristin was really attractive to me. I also like the fact that the school is only 46 years young. Other schools can get



**In the mix... New Kristin executive principal Mark Wilson plans to spend plenty of time getting to know the students**

trapped in their stony past."

Wilson describes his role as the executive principal as being responsible for the overall operation of the school and other staff members.

Kristin has three levels of schooling: primary, middle and secondary. Wilson will work with the principals of each to make sure there is consistency and good progression among the students.

"The heart of the school is the students, so a quarter of my day will be spent getting out to mix with the students," he says.

Getting to know the Kristin community is not the only thing Wilson is looking forward to however. He is aiming to enjoy the warmer weather and beaches.

"I love fishing and there's nothing better than a walk along the beach," he says.

## Shore theatre luminary takes final bow

After 40 years at the forefront of North Shore community theatre, Shoreside Theatre's founder and artistic director Carol Dumbleton has exited stage right.

Dumbleton, 79, initially started Milford Little Theatre in 1976 as a way for children to get involved in stage productions.

Dumbleton also started Milford Playhouse to cater for senior students.

In the 1990s, schools started teaching drama and, around 2000, Shoreside Theatre was set up to cater for actors of all ages.

From 1980, Dumbleton has put on three shows a year at the PumpHouse, with a career highlight being introducing outdoors summer Shakespeare in 1996.

Carol made her stage debut aged 4 at the Theatre Royal in Exeter wearing a costume made from yellow dusters; this was necessitated by clothing rationing at the time.

Many years of ballet, tap, singing and drama followed.

The strong influence of Shakespeare at an early age culminated in her winning an Open Age competition at the age of 15 – the youngest person in the class.

From there touring the major theatre circuits doing revue and repertory work followed. Her earlier career, in the UK, included professional acting, teaching speech and



**Leading lady... Carol Dumbleton, 80, has stepped down from Shoreside after 40 years**

drama, and passing exams set by the Royal Schools of Music in speech and drama.

In 2010, Carol received a Companion

of North Shore City Award presented for exceptional services to the North Shore Community.

## Project aims to turn up the volume of bird chorus



**Trap man... Stu Wilkie has given out 50 traps, and has more available**

A Castor Bay man sees a local conservation project aiming to get more native birds into the area as a “social imperative”.

Stu Wilkie has been giving out council traps to locals over the past few months, as part of the Castor Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association’s Predator-Free Castor Bay project.

“Rather than focussing on trapping rats, we are talking about getting more birds in the area,” Wilkie says.

So far, Wilkie has given out 50 traps, starting at the Castor Bay Neighbours Day in March and, since then, through word of mouth. He has another 30 to 40 still avail-

able for Castor Bay residents.

Wilkie has also set up a website where trappers can register and log their kills.

Around a third of those who have taken traps have registered. By last week, they had caught 22 rats and a mouse.

Association member Wilkie was picked to manage the predator-free Castor Bay project, as he had already distributed bait stations to neighbours that were passed on to the association by the North Shore Birdsong project team.

Wilkie says he isn’t a conservationist so much as a citizen who recognises looking after the environment is the right thing

to do.

For the future, he plans working bees to clean up the suburb’s stream, as well as a ‘chew card’ exercise to get a good picture of what pests are in the suburb.

If you live in Castor Bay and would like to request a trap, email Wilkie on [wilkies-tu@gmail.com](mailto:wilkies-tu@gmail.com).

The traps are not a danger to pets or children, and can be emptied into a bin without the trapper needing to touch the carcass.

### Stu’s rat-trapping tips

- Take a ‘pulsed approach’ and give the traps a rest after a month, then put them out again in a slightly different place.
- The traps need to be at the edge of the property or house, as rats don’t like to be in open ground.
- Near a stream is another good location.
- Traps should be designed so rats can see light at the end and perceive they can leave if they enter the tunnel.
- Traps should be in a sunny place, so rats can easily see the light.
- Peanut butter should be used as bait for rats and chocolate for mice.

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## Stylist does her bit to tackle clothes 'mountain'



### True colours... Stephanie King believes in sustainable fashion

Seeing the negative effects of fast fashion inspired Stephanie King to combine two of her passions, fashion and the environment, to become a sustainable stylist.

It wasn't until after having children that King decided she needed to make a difference in the fashion industry.

"When you have kids, everyone gives you so many beautiful things. When they had grown up, I was left with mountains of clothes that they didn't need any more," she says.

"It started to really bother me that we were consuming all of these things."

King began buying second-hand items and went on to open a shop in Milford, where she sells handpicked European vintage clothing, much of which she sources herself from Italy, France and the UK. The only clothing she doesn't buy second-hand is underwear, she says.

King strongly encourages her teenage children to do the same. "My kids know that they need to look second-hand first, and they know I don't believe in online shopping," she says.

"People are filling our landfills with clothes they buy online. It's up to parents now to start educating their kids on sustainable fashion."

King's love of fashion started at an early age, but she initially pursued hairdressing as a career. She retrained in communications and PR, but still with a vision of moving into fashion styling.

After having children, King worked as a freelance stylist, where many of her clients were also new mothers who didn't have a lot of money. She decided she could become a sustainable stylist by taking clients to recycle and vintage stores to buy items, only buying new if there was absolutely nothing

to be found second-hand.

These days, most of her styling takes place in her store, Painted Bird, which opened in 2016.

King's grandmother was a seamstress and she recalls being allowed to make Barbie dolls' clothing with fabric offcuts. Her aunt was an avid collector of Edwardian handbags, and her mother was a model in Colombia.

King says she believes it was her upbringing that brought her to love the finer things in fashion rather than being a victim to trends.

"Just recently, a 92-year-old lady came in with a coat from 1944. She wore it to and from her job with the government every single day," she says.

"This story will go to the person who purchases the coat. That's why people bring their pieces here – they know it's not just going to get dumped or end up in landfill."

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# Apartment mediation disappoints locals

Neighbours of a six-storey apartment block being built in Milford are disappointed by the results of court-ordered mediation, but say they can't afford to carry on fighting through the courts.

Under the banner of the Pierce Rd Coalition, a group representing 13 neighbours and supported by the Milford Residents Association, appealed the consent for a six-storey apartment development on the corner of 110 Kitchener Rd and 1A Pierce Rd.

The appeal went to court-ordered mediation on 29 May and residents agreed on several relatively minor changes, but claim they were being pragmatic.

"We did get some concessions, but this was more tinkering around the edges," resident Mark Struthers said. "The risk of not settling at mediation and proceeding to the Environment Court was that a new set of commissioners could rule that the original consent be granted, meaning there would be no concessions."

The neighbours' appeal was based on discrepancies between standards in the Auckland Unitary Plan and the plans approved in February by a panel of three commissioners.

The apartments will cover two sections, one zoned Mixed Use and the other Mixed Housing Urban.

On the residential site at 1A Pierce Rd, the commissioners waded through a height of 18.5m, when the Mixed Housing Urban zone allows for 11m, building coverage of 93 per cent instead of 45 per cent and landscaping of 5.3 per cent of the area, rather than the required 35 per cent, plus other dispensations.

There were also a number of dispensations in the Mixed Use zone.

Developer Rod Francis says there is more flexibility than people realise in the Unitary Plan to provide for high-quality developments that "add value" to an area.

He and his wife, Shanly, live at 110 Kitchener Rd. They say they plan to live in the new block.



**Six appeal... Mediation has produced only minor changes to a six-storey apartment block planned for the corner of Kitchener and Pierce roads**

They have lived in the area for 40 years and have seen little change in Milford, yet Rod Francis says its amenities are "second to none".

He believes developments like theirs are the way the city has to develop.

"We were motivated to do something for Milford that sets a standard."

Francis said it's always difficult to develop in residential areas and he had hoped to sit down and nut out a solution with his neighbours, but that was not to be.

Neighbours were concerned about shading, loss of privacy, traffic safety, and the impact on the amenity of Milford.

The Milford Residents Association said in its submission it was concerned about the precedent it would set that could see buildings six storeys and higher lining Kitchener Rd, shading the road and creating an inappropriate "canyon and city effect in a medium-sized town centre".

At the May mediation, concessions all parties agreed to included stepping back the roof at levels four and five facing Pierce Road.

The exterior wall facing 3 Pierce Rd on level five would be pulled back, compensated by an extension on the opposite wall facing Kitchener Rd.

One car park next to 3 Pierce Rd would be replaced with planting, plus there would be extra planting on levels four and five facing Pierce Rd.

While these measures would improve privacy, the residents' group felt disappointed with the outcome and questioned why they had to fight for provisions in the Unitary Plan.

"It is not a level playing field when the odds are stacked against you and you are contesting a deep-pocketed developer and a council who are obviously going to back their decision to grant consent," Struthers says.

However, Francis says, for economic reasons, a certain standard of coverage is needed to provide a property of a standard expected in the area.

Francis said he could have put up a six-level building for students with no parking and have no difficulty getting a consent.

Auckland Council declined to comment.



**Auckland  
Founda+ion**

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If you already live in a warm, well-insulated home and can afford to keep the heating on this winter, please consider helping those who can't.

Until 1 October, NZ superannuitants will receive additional Winter Energy Payments: **\$450 for a single person, or \$700 for a couple.**

If you'd like to gift this extra bonus, or would like to make a donation, Auckland Foundation will direct your generosity to help those who are most vulnerable to the winter cold and damp.

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